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AMENDED CLAIMS

1. Strapping installation suitable for strapping objects (1), in particular stacks of printed products such as newspapers or periodicals, using a strap (6), the installation comprising a strapping position with a bearing surface (2), means for positioning the objects to be strapped in the strapping position, and means for removing the strapped objects from the strapping position in a conveying direction (F) oriented essentially parallel to the bearing surface (2), the installation further comprising a fastening region (3) located in the strapping position and equipped for supplying the strap (6) into a loop channel (4), for securing a loop end (7), for retracting the strap (6) from the loop channel (4), and for fastening and severing a completed strapping, wherein the loop channel (4) extends from either side of the fastening region (3) in the shape of a groove in the bearing surface (2), characterized in that the installation further comprises a loop guide (10) being stationary during the strapping procedure, which loop guide rises from the bearing surface (2) inside of the loop channel (4) and on one side of the strapping position and arches across or towards the strapping position in such a manner that it does not obstruct positioning of the objects to be strapped (1) in the strapping position and such that a strap loop (6.2) slides on an outer surface of the loop guide (10), and the strap loop (6.2) being supported and guided by beginning and end of the loop channel (4) and by the loop guide (10) is the shorter the higher it rises on the loop guide (10).
2. Strapping installation according to claim 1, characterized in that the means for positioning the object (1) to be strapped in the strapping position is equipped for supply from above towards the strapping position or essentially in the con-

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veying direction (F), and that the loop guide (10) arches towards the strapping position.

- 5 3. Strapping installation according to claim 1, characterized in that the means for positioning the object (1) to be strapped in the strapping position is equipped for supply essentially in the conveying direction (F) and that the loop guide (10) arches across the strapping position.
- 10 4. Strapping installation according to one of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that, for longitudinal strapping, a beginning and an end of the groove-shaped loop channel (4) is aligned parallel to the conveying direction (F), and that the installation is further equipped for transverse strapping in the strapping position or in an additional strapping position following the strapping position in the conveying direction F.
- 15 5. Strapping installation according to claim 4, characterized in that it comprises a further loop channel (30) extending at a right angle to the conveying direction (F).
6. Strapping installation according to one of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that the loop guide (10) comprises two or more slide rails (10.1, 10.2).
- 20 7. Strapping installation according to claim 6, characterized in that the groove-shaped loop channel (4) comprises a concave bend between the guide rails (10.1 and 10.2) and that, in the area of the concave bend of the groove-shaped loop channel (4), an element rising from the bearing surface (2) is arranged on the outside of the loop channel (4).

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8. Strapping installation according to claims 5 and 7, characterized in that the element rising from the bearing surface (2) outside of the groove-shaped loop channel is the further loop channel (30), which extends across the strapping position above the loop guide (10).
- 5 9. Strapping installation according to one of claims 1 to 8, characterized in that, at least in the area where the loop guide (10) rises from the bearing surface, the groove-shaped loop channel (4) comprises an inner wall (4.2) slanting towards the bearing surface (2).
- 10 10. Strapping installation according to one of claims 1 to 9, characterized in that at least part of the groove-shaped loop channel (4) is closeable.
- 15 11. Strapping installation according to one of claims 1 to 10 characterized in that the fastening region (3) is equipped to hold a tape-shaped strap (6) with its width parallel to the bearing surface (2) and that the loop channel (4) comprises twists such that, in bent channel areas, the tape-shaped strap (6) is positioned with its width vertical to the bearing surface (2).
- 20 12. Strapping installation according to one of claims 1 to 10, characterized in that the fastening region (3) comprises a rotating strap holding means (13, 14), by which the tape-shaped strap (6) is rotateable from a position, in which its width is vertical to the bearing surface (2), to a position, in which its width is parallel with the bearing surface (2).
13. Strapping installation according to one of claims 1 to 10, characterized in that the fastening region (3) is equipped for holding a tape-shaped strap (6) with its

width vertical to the bearing surface (2) and for fastening the strap in this position.

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14. Strapping installation according to one of claims 1 to 13, characterized in that it further comprises two or four pressing elements which are capable to be lowered (42).
15. Strapping installation according to claim 14, characterized in that the pressing elements (42) are designed as knee levers (46) being rotateable around an axis (47).
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16. Strapping installation according to one of claims 14 or 15, characterized in that the pressing elements (42) comprise guide tapes (51) for guiding the strap loop (6), which guide tapes form a guide channel (55) above the strapping position, which guide channel (55) extends from the end of the loop guide (10) towards the strapping position and is open above the end of the loop guide (10).
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17. Strapping installation according to one of claims 14 to 16, characterized in that it further comprises means for positioning a cover sheet (60) on the object (1) to be strapped and that the pressing elements (42) are equipped for displacing the cover sheet (60) while being lowered on to the object (1) to be strapped.